IDAHO
TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

Your Safety • Your Mobility
Your Economic Opportunity

itd.idaho.gov

News Release

10/24/2022

Reed Hollinshead
ITD Communication
208-334-8881
reed.hollinshead@itd.idaho.gov

ITD wins safety award in AASHTO President's competition for third time since 2017, showing commitment

BOISE - The Statewide Asset Attribute Inventory (SWAAI) program for Idaho highways, an effort spearheaded by GIS Analyst Nik Sterbentz in southeast Idaho with collaboration from ITD districts across the Gem State, received the AASHTO President's Transportation Award in the Safety category Saturday, Oct. 22 at the group's annual conference. Previously, the components of Idaho's 12,300-lane-mile state highway system were not inventoried in a convenient, central system. The SWAAI not only solves the current problem, but also sets ITD on a great course for the future.

It marks the third time since 1997 that Idaho has won the safety award from AASHTO (American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials) – the national group that oversees all state departments of transportation across the country. Since safety is one of ITD's top priorities, the acknowledgement is especially gratifying.

"Winning this award in the Safety category is a great reflection of the constant value that safety is to each of us at ITD, and how each of us can contribute to the advancement of safety wherever it is we serve," ITD Director Scott Stokes said. "This is who we are."

The award was received Oct. 22, by ITD officials, pictured left to right in photo: ITD Chief Engineer Blake Rindlisbacher, D5 District Engineer Todd Hubbard, and Chief Deputy/Chief Operations Officer Dan McElhinney.

The SWAAI program touches on several of ITD's strategic goals, starting by saving nearly 300,000 personnel data collection hours and helping its planners identify ways to make ITD's roads safer to drive. ITD can now fulfill many requests quickly and with much less labor, saving taxpayer dollars in the long run – an estimated $3.8 million saved in boots-on-the-ground collection costs alone.

Prior to the project, ITD lacked reliable comprehensive data inventories of key highway assets, including signs, guardrails, ADA ramps, sidewalks, and vertical clearance. Without reliable information, a data-driven approach to decision-making was frequently impossible, resulting in rushed, anecdotal, costly *ad hoc* solutions.

"It's an opportunity for ITD to identify and implement numerous new, innovative practices and build on its legacy while proving its willingness to be open to revolutionary new improvements," Sterbentz (pictured below) said about the SWAAI project.